

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Affolter et al.  
Appl. No.: PCT/EP00/01796  
Filed: 2 March 2000  
Title: EXPRESSION OF PROTEOLYTIC ENZYMES IN KOJI MOLD IN THE  
PRESENCE OF CARBON SOURCES  
Art Unit: Unknown  
Examiner: Unknown  
Docket No.: 112843-029

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please Amend Claims 4-8 as follows:

4. (Once Amended) A koji mold according to claim 1 which is *Aspergillus oryzae* I-2165 (NF14).

5. (Once Amended) A koji mold according to claim 1 wherein the *areA* gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

6. (Once Amended) A method of producing proteolytic enzymes, comprising cultivating a koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein the *creA* gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional in a suitable growth medium in the presence of a carbon source under conditions that the mold expresses proteolytic enzymes.

7. (Once Amended) A method for hydrolyzing protein-containing materials comprising the steps of using a Koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein the *creA* gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional.

8. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 7, in combination with at least an enzyme or a microorganism providing a prolidase activity.